

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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Claim 1. (Currently amended) An alert control method in telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a time ~~data~~ at which actual talk with a person was made last related to a name of a person ~~to communicate with~~ in a phonebook database;

determining based on the time ~~data~~ whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the determining comprises:

reading a current time ~~of day~~ from a timer;

calculating an elapsed time from the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ to the current time ~~of day~~; and

determining whether the elapsed time exceeds the predetermined time interval.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ is initially set to a time ~~of day~~ when data related to the person is registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 2 1, wherein the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ is updated each time ~~communication~~ a talk with the person is terminated.

Claim 6. (Original) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time interval is arbitrarily determined depending on a user's instruction.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the alerting is performed by driving at least one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An alert control method in telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to ~~communication~~ talk with in a phonebook database;

dividing the plurality of persons into a plurality of groups;

determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which ~~communication~~ talk with the person is not made before alerting;

determining whether the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~; and

alerting when it is determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ is initially set to a time ~~of day~~ when data related to the person is registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ is updated each time ~~communication~~ talk with the person is terminated.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An alert control method in telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

a storing time ~~data~~ at which actual talk with a person was made last related to a name of a person to ~~communicate with~~ in a phonebook database;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

determining based on the time ~~data~~ whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person;

alerting when a current time ~~of day~~ falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person; and

inhibiting alert when the current time ~~of day~~ falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person.

Claim 12. (Canceled).

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Claim 13. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 11, wherein the alerting is performed by driving at least one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 13, wherein; said inhibiting comprises inhibiting an audible alert by the speaker and/or the vibrator ~~is inhibited~~ and permitting a silent alert on the display ~~is permitted~~.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and
displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, further comprising:
storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and
displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 11, further comprising:
storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

displaying the alert list in form of a menu on a display so that a desired one is selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database for storing time ~~data~~ at which actual talk with a person was made last related to a name of a person ~~to communicate with~~; and

a controller for determining based on the time ~~data~~ whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database for storing a last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~ related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to ~~communicate~~ talk with, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which ~~communication~~ talk with the person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~, and starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-~~communication~~ talk time ~~of day~~.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

① a phonebook database for storing a time data at which actual talk with a person was made last related to a name of a person ~~to communicate with~~;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

② a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person, starting the alert function when a current time of day falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person, and inhibiting alert when the current time of day falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without ~~communicating~~ talking with the person.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) An alert control method in telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in response to termination of a call to the person;

determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing time data is in response to termination of a call to the person.

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Claim 22. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 21, wherein the time is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last. The method of claim 8, wherein the storing of a last-communication time of day is in response to termination of a call to the person.

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Claim 23. (Currently amended) An alert control method in telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the phonebook database stores the time data in response to termination of a call to the person.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 23, wherein the time data is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the phonebook database stores the time data in

~~response to termination of a call to the person.~~

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Claim 25. (New) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:
a phonebook database for storing time data related to a name of a person to
communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person; and
a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time
interval has elapsed without communicating with the person and starting the alert function
when it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without
communicating with the person.

Claim 26. (New) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:
a phonebook database for storing a last-communication talk time related to a name of
each of a plurality of persons to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the
person, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into a plurality of groups; and
a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups,
wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with the
person is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval has
elapsed after the last-communication time, and starting the alert function when it is
determined that the before-alert time interval has elapsed after the last-communication time.

Claim 27. (New) A telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:
a phonebook database for storing time data related to a name of a person to
communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person;

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an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited; and

a controller for determining based on the time data whether a predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person, starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed without communicating with the person.